Author’s response to reviews

Title: ‘We DECide optimized’ - Training nursing home staff in shared decision-making skills for advance care planning conversations in dementia care: protocol of a pretest-posttest cluster randomized trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Aronin,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript and for giving us the opportunity to make these changes. Please find below our responses to your remarks, as well as the location of the changes in the manuscript.

Sincerely, and on behalf of all authors,

Bart Goossens

- As your study does not require a trial registration number, please remove that line from the Abstract.

Answer: The line is removed.
- Please provide more details of the intervention in your Methods. Some examples: Please make explicit who the participants are. What happens if the participant does not achieve the “homework” of facilitating a conversation, and how this information is recorded other than the participant sharing the experience with the investigators?

Answer: We now provide more details of the intervention. This includes:

- who the participants are
- what happens if the homework is not achieved
- how this information is recorded

Please note the actual “homework” conversation is not recorded due to privacy reasons. Participants write down their experiences and discuss these with the trainer during workshop 2. The information which is discussed during workshop 2 is written down by BG.

See Methods section, line 131-132, page 6; Methods section, line 178-182, page 7-8; Methods section, line 186-187, page 8.

- If possible, please use future tense in your Methods, as this is a trial protocol.

Answer: Future tense is now used in the Methods section of both the abstract and the manuscript.

See Abstract, line 42-50, page 2; Methods section, line 129-255, page 6-11

- Please ensure that all measurement instruments are properly cited. If any of them have not been published or are modified from the published version, please provide a copy, both in the original language in English translation, as additional files. Please also provide the interview form as an additional file and please include a List of additional files according to the guidelines.

Answer: All instruments are properly cited. When referencing unpublished questionnaires, we include the term self-constructed. Copies of the two self-constructed questionnaires (SACP, ACCENT) and the interview form are added as additional files in both English and Dutch. The English translations have been edited by a professional language editing service. A ‘List of additional files’ is added. All additional files are referenced explicitly by file name within the body of the manuscript.
See: Methods section, line 343, page 14; Methods section, line 356, page 15; List of additional files, line 555, page 23; Methods section, line 344, page 14; Methods section, line 352-353, page 15; Methods section, line 359-360, page 15.

- Please clarify in the Ethics approval and consent to participate statement the informed consent procedure for residents with dementia who may not have the capacity to provide informed consent for the questionnaires.

Answer: This is now clarified in the Ethics approval and consent to participate.

See Declarations, line 420-422, page 17.

- In the Competing interest statement, please state that AD is an Associate Editor for this journal.

Answer: This sentence is added.

See Declarations, line 429, page 18.

- Please have your manuscript edited for English usage by a colleague who is fluent in English or by a professional editing service. Please see below for more information.

Answer: We sent our manuscript to a professional language editing service (Studio Roger, Belgium).

- Please submit a clean, final version of your manuscript without any colored text or highlighting and with track changes turned off.

Answer: The manuscript does not contain any colored text or highlighting. Track changes are turned off.